System for granting Timings for line boats.

463. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there has been any proposal to regulate that applications for timings of line boats should be with reference to a particular boat instead of in the names of the proprietors;

(b) when; by whom;

(c) the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems in (a);

(d) whether according to the old system smaller boats could not be substituted by bigger ones according to the rise in the bulk of the traffic and whether as such the same was not more suitable to the convenience of the travelling public;

(e) what the Government intend to do in the matter ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) In Dhanu 1108. By the Assistant Engineer, Southern Division.

(c) The advantage is that the rule makes it impossible for Boat Companies to take more timings than their fleet of boats could cope with. Hitherto, it has been noticed that the Companies do not run boats to all the timings which they secured. This is causing inconvenience to passengers. The disadvantage of the new system is that if a particular boat is disabled or if there is a rush of passengers who cannot all be accommodated in that boat there will be inconvenience to the public. This is provided against by the rule that the boat owners will be given permission by the Canal Staff to use any of their other boats on producing an application for it stating reasons.

(d) Yes.

According to the new system too, a boat can be changed on application being made to the Canal authorities.

(e) Complaints of the nature referred to in this question having been received the matter is referred back to the Assistant Engineer, Southern Division, for a further report.

Allotment for Mattancheri Male Hospital Work.

464. **Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) what amount has so far been allotted for the new Mattancheri Male Hospital ;

(b) how much has so far been spent out of the allotted sum and for what purposes ;

(c) when is the completion of the above hospital anticipated so as to be serviceable to the public ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Rs. 10,000.

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